



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

Fact Sheet

WTO and Agriculture **What's at Stake for Ohio?**

October 1999

Ohio is an important producer of agricultural products and a major exporter. Forest products are also important. The state's farm cash receipts and forest product shipments totaled \$5 billion in 1998 and \$2 billion in 1996, respectively. Ohio ranked 12th among all 50 states in 1998 with agricultural exports estimated at \$1.4 billion. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 17,700 jobs both on the farm and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Exports are increasingly important to Ohio's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports has risen from 24 percent to 28 percent since 1991.

The top five agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # soybeans and products -- \$641 million
- # feed grains and products -- \$303 million
- # wheat and products -- \$172 million
- # vegetables -- \$50 million
- # poultry and products -- \$37 million

World demand is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Ohio's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

Ohio Benefits from Trade Agreements

- # Ohio benefits under the Uruguay Round as Japan reduces its tariffs on soybean oil 36 percent by 2000.
- # As one of the nation's largest feed corn producers, Ohio benefits under the Uruguay Round as Japan increases its 3.75-million-ton zero duty quota for feed corn by 450,000 tons by 2000. South Korea is lowering its in-quota tariff on feed corn and popcorn from 3 percent to 1.8 percent from 1995 to 2005. Korea will also reduce tariffs on mixed animal feeds from 7 percent to 4.2 percent.
- # Ohio, an important producer of wheat and products, benefits under the Uruguay Round from a 33 percent reduction in the quantity of EU wheat receiving export subsidies by 2000. Japan is expanding its 5,530,000 ton tariff-rate quota by 35,000 tons annually from 1995 to 2000.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs 28 percent on average for wood products.

